

Minutes From a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life
Held on October 29, 1999
SGW Campus Hall 769 10:00am

Present: Dr. D. Boisvert, Chair, Ms J. Hackett, Secretary, Mr. A. Beedassy, Ms J. Calder, Mr. R. Côté, Ms M. Drew, Mr. P. Gilmore, Dr. S.M. Graub, Mr. C. Jacob, Ms A. Kerby, Ms S. Navidad, Mr. D. Prejli, Ms T. Ryan, Dr. F. Shaver, Mr. P. Taylor, Ms C. Boujaklian, Mr. W. Curran, Ms L. Lipscombe, Ms L. Toscano

Absent with Regrets: Ms S. Friesinger, Ms K. Stewart, Mr. B. Boncore, Dr. J. Jans, Mr. B. MacIver, Ms C. Hedrich

Delegates: Mr. P. Aube represented Mr. V. Francisco, Mr. B. Vroom represented Ms K. Hedrich, Mr. R. Rappel represented Mr. H. Zarins

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr. Boisvert informed Council that item 4.4 - The Draft Policy on Demonstrations would be available for the December CCSL meeting. He also indicated that item 5.1 the presentation by the Dean of Students would be usurped by a presentation from the Director of Libraries. Mr. Curran wished to update Council on the renovations to the Webster Library. A motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Mr. Jacob and seconded by Ms Ryan.

The Motion was carried unanimously

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

Dr. Boisvert informed Council that the voter turn-out for the CSU by-elections was 2,084 - one of the largest since the 1993 CSU by-elections. The students voted to give support to a strike mandate, a motion to end the Marriott exclusivity contract, a repeal of the administrative fee and a fee levy for the Women's Centre.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF September 17, 1999

A motion to approve the minutes was made Ms Navidad and seconded by Ms Ryan.

The Motion was carried unanimously

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 I/EAC Review Committee: Mr. Pruden, chair of the I/EAC Review Committee, informed Council that the expanded committee had met and had a good introductory meeting. As one of the funding proposals for the I/EAC was a fee levy, the committee felt it was wise to wait until after the CSU by-elections had happened and the results of the fee levy for the Women's Centre were known. Barring any unforeseen difficulties. Mr. Pruden hoped to table a new I/EAC structure and funding proposal for the December CCSL meeting.

4.2 Student Participation in University Governance

Mr. Pruden introduced the members of his committee: Ms Kerby, Dr. Shaver, Ms Toscano, Mr. Jacob, Ms Boyer, Mr. Gupta and Ms Ryan. Mr. Taylor attended the first meeting informally. Mr. Jacob asked if the V.P. Academic of each umbrella

association could be invited to attend as observers. He also felt the membership of the committee should be expanded to include 3 undergraduate representatives from CCSL. Mr. Jacob, seconded by Mr. Taylor, made the following motion:

*Be it resolved that the membership of the
Student Participation in University Governance Committee
be expanded to include 3 undergraduate CCSL members*

There was some concern expressed that as it was difficult to ensure student representation on committees with the many demands on students' time, was it prudent to add students to a committee where there already was student representation? Mr. Jacob felt it was important to have CCSL members on the committee in order to report effectively back to CCSL. After a brief discussion, Dr. Boisvert asked if Council was agreeable to the motion.

The motion was carried

The undergraduate representation from CCSL would be: Mr. Jacob, Mr. Gilmore and Mr. Taylor. Mr. Prejli asked if he could speak concerning this motion. Dr. Boisvert explained that normally once an issue has been discussed and a motion has been voted on, the issue is closed. However, as there were new members on CCSL who may not be aware of the procedure, he invited Mr. Prejli to air his concerns. Mr. Prejli felt strongly that this expanded committee may lose some credibility. He felt the over balance of student representation may decrease the legitimacy of the committee. He also indicated that there was only one graduate representative on the committee. Mr. Taylor disagreed; he felt adding student representatives would lend legitimacy. Ms Ryan questioned the size of the committee with respect to "getting things done". Mr. Taylor felt Mr. Pruden was a capable Chair and would ensure that things ran efficiently.

4.3 CSU Job Bank & Off-Campus Housing Report 98-99: Dr. Boisvert referred Council to the CSU Job and Off-Campus Housing Report and Financial Statement before Council. He reminded Council that the balance of the subsidy for 98-99 (\$10,600) was to be transferred to CSU upon receipt of this report. He also indicated that Student Services pays for 2/3 of this operation. A brief question and answer period followed. Dr. Graub expressed concern that the job postings were often out of date. Ms Navidad agreed that it was critical that the job postings be current and that issue would be resolved. Dr. Boisvert asked if Council had any objection to releasing the balance of the subsidy for 98-99. There was no objection.

4.4 Draft Policy on Demonstration: Dr. Boisvert indicated this policy would be on the agenda for December.

5. Reports

5.1 Webster Library: Mr. Curran said the renovations that will help alleviate the critical space problems in the Library are underway. Phase I, the renovations to the LB 2nd floor, should be completed next week. Work will commence on the LB 3rd floor in May. Mr. Curran took the opportunity to thank the students and the community for their patience with the inconveniences that were incurred due to the delay in the renovations. He is aware that observance of rules has been slack and difficult to enforce because of the noise and confusion caused by the renovations. However as the renovations will be completed next week, he stated that quiet rules will be strictly

enforced as well as the regulations concerning food and drink in the Library. He asked for assistance from the university community in order to rectify the problem. As an effort to recognize our students' support for their Library, Mr. Curran announced that a pilot project has been created to keep the Webster Library open 24hrs a day for the period prior to the examination period (November 22- December 6). However the Library will only be open to the Concordia community; valid Concordia ID's will be required to gain access. He cautioned that there may be minor disturbances between 12midnight and 8:00am as the cleaning and maintenance of the building must continue. He said the Library will absorb the costs of this project. Announcements concerning this service will be advertised in the Student Newspapers, and announcements will be sent to the Student Associations as well as CCSL. Mr. Taylor asked if this service would be extended year long. Mr. Curran reiterated that this is pilot project and data will have to be collected before any long-term decisions can be made. However, he did not discount another pilot project for April 2000. On behalf of Council, Dr. Boisvert thanked Mr. Curran for his efforts in bringing to Concordia such an innovative project, and one that can only benefit our students.

5.2 Birks Student Service Centre: Ms Toscano gave a brief overview of the services offered at the Centre. Chiefly, among them were: tuition payments, loans and bursaries, processing of forms, ids, letters of attestation, transcripts, copies of records and independent students process. Approximately 150,000 students are seen annually at the wickets. During the first two weeks of school 9,939 students were seen in 9 days at the wickets, with more students seen at the reception desk. The average waiting time was 6 minutes. Approximately 4,000 id cards were done in the atrium. The ticketing system allows for a better flow of traffic as questions can be prioritized. The reception desk acts as an effective "triage". A Welcome Centre has opened which offers literature and brochures on the various programmes available. Arrangements for admissions interviews or campus tours can also be made at the Centre. Ms Toscano indicated that proving province residency (a government requirement) still presents headaches for students and staff alike. She also informed Council that all students will now have to have a code permanent for Fall 2000. The University will be responsible for collecting the information the government requires and this will no doubt bring a new set of problems. The reason for the code permanent is for better tracking of the students as well as a better understanding of funding to institutions. Ms Ryan asked about the "access to information forms" that students were now being asked to complete and sign. Mr. Côté explained that in order for Financial Aid to access information to assist a student with any problems with his/her financial aid application, the Government requires authorization from the student. This authorization will be integrated in the financial aid application in the future. Dr. Boisvert thanked Ms. Toscano for a most interesting presentation.

6. Student Life Issues

6.1 Relamping of Hall Building: Ms Boujaklian said that any major work must be done in conjunction with the University space plan. It was felt it was not prudent to undertake a costly venture when space/lighting requirements may change in the near future.

Ms Boujaklian updated Council on the following issues from the October CCSL meeting. With respect to escalator repair, she informed Council that the escalators are normally repaired during the day for several reasons. It is more efficient as often the repairs only take 1-2 hours. The service is then back up and running the same day as opposed to the escalators being out of order all day until repairs can be done in the evening. Also as any repairs done in the evening would be considered

overtime, it is not cost effective. Ms Boujaklian confirmed that signs have been ordered for the Lobby and Mezzanine to indicate stairwells. When there are escalator problems, portable signs will be set-up to direct traffic. On the subject of the shuttle bus service, Ms Boujlian reiterated that funds are limited. The contract with the transportation company will be up in two years and at that time the needs and concerns of the community can be explored. However, for next September, the needs vs. the schedule will be monitored more carefully. Mr. Taylor informed Council that he and Ms Mullarkey from the CSU have been meeting with Mr. Pietromonaco in Transportation to discuss the students' perspective and their needs vis a vis the shuttle bus. Dr. Boisvert congratulated Mr. Taylor and Ms Mullarkey on their initiative.

Ms Lipscombe announced that the Bookstore has developed a website that has generated a lot of positive feedback. She encouraged Council to visit the site and see what services are now available to you. Ms Lipscombe also informed Council that Concordia is involved in a joint venture with 10 other Canadian universities in creating a "used book program". This program will keep used books within Canada, keep costs to a minimum and ultimately benefit our students.

Ms Toscano took the opportunity to congratulate the ECA on their contribution to Centraide through their "Looney Line".

Ms Calder asked if it would be possible for the Off-Campus Housing Service and the International Student Office to work in tandem to offer a comprehensive housing service to international students. Ms Navidad agreed. She also said that housing workshops designed especially for the needs of international students would be offered for Winter 2000. Mr Prejli asked what the university's position was on the issue of Residence expansion. Mr. Côté answered that studies and reports have been done on this issue. There have been many positive changes to the residence in the past year which have enhanced the living conditions and benefited the residence students. Suggestions have been made for expanded, specialized, or restricted residences (i.e. graduate students, faculty specific, etc). There are many issues to be taken into consideration especially the issues of space and funding. The government does not provide funding for residences. However, there is a clear commitment from the University for an enhanced residence facility.

7. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE RECREATION & ATHLETICS BOARD

Ms Kerby said the Board had met on October 22. There was a full complement except for the CSU representative. Mr. Taylor offered to fill the CSU vacancy. Dr. Boisvert asked Mr. Taylor to confirm this appointment with Mr. Green and asked that Mr. Green ratify the appointment in writing. Ms Kerby said there was a lengthy discussion on budget parameters. The minutes of the meeting will be deposited with the CCSL as mandated.

8. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

9. NEXT MEETING: Friday, December 3rd, 1999 AD 131 10:00am

10. TERMINATION OF MEETING

A motion to terminate the meeting was made by Mr. Jacob and seconded by Ms Kerby.

The Motion was carried